

The Board of Education of the Borough of Essex Fells, in the County of Essex, New Jersey, convened in a workshop meeting on March 6, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. in the Superintendent's Office of the Essex Fells School. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President Mrs. Alison Cirenza at 7:33 P.M. Mrs. Cirenza read the following Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: "In compliance with Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975, a notice for this meeting was posted at the respective offices of the Essex Fells School on February 27, 2013. Agendas were mailed to the Clerk of the Borough of Essex Fells, the Progress, the Star Ledger, and posted on the district web-site."

**I. Call to Order – 7:33 P.M.**

**II. Roll Call**

Mrs. Alison Cirenza, Vice-President – present  
Mrs. Carol D'Alessandro – present  
Mr. Peter Hutchinson – present  
Dr. Steven LoCascio, President – absent  
Dr. Michele Nitti– arrived at 7:52 P.M.

Also present: Mrs. Michelle V. Gadaleta, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Steven J. Lella, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and 7 staff members.

**III. Flag Salute**

The Vice President led the flag salute.

**IV. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**V. Buildings & Grounds**

- Mr. Lella confirmed with the Board that the speaker installation project will take place over Spring Break as well as some masonry and painting work outside of the IT room in the courtyard area.

**VI. Curriculum & Instruction**

- Mrs. Gadaleta spoke to the Board about Rosetta Stone and that she spoke with W Essex about what their 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders currently study and the possibility of our students having more access to Rosetta Stone.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked how many other districts use Rosetta Stone.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that she would like the district to have access to multiple languages if parents would like, such as Italian or French, but they would have to stay with the selected language for the year. Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that EFS is going above and beyond for K-3 exposure to a second language.
- Mrs. Cirenza asked if Rosetta Stone is graded.
- Mrs. Gadaleta also noted that Rosetta Stone made improvements to its technology and support provided to districts to address usability issues at no additional charge.
- Mrs. D'Alessandro asked how the I pads are used for Rosetta Stone.
- Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the Professional Development that was provided for all staff on 3/6, addressing team teaching and techniques. She felt it was a very successful and productive seminar.

**VII. Finance**

- Mr. Lella discussed changes to the budget from the February 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- Mr. Lella informed the Board of a staff member who hadn't been paying into the pension system since returning from maternity leave is now making back payments.

**VIII. Business Resolution**

- Mr. Lella informed the Board of the resolution for the submission of the preliminary 2013-14 budget to the County Superintendent for approval, as well as announcing the Public Hearing on March 21, 2013.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education in the County of Essex, New Jersey, approves the 2013-2014 preliminary school district budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund:	\$4,692,015.00	\$4,082,052.00
Special Revenue:	38,344.50	0.00
Debt Service:	215,197.50	215,197.50
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<u>\$4,945,557.00</u>	<u>\$4,297,249.50</u>

**RESOLVED** that the Essex Fells Board of Education hereby, approves the withdrawal of \$200,000.00 from the Capital Reserve to be appropriated in the 2013-14 school year budget for the following purpose:

Boiler Replacement

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the preliminary budget to the Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools for review and approval, to advertise the preliminary budget in the district’s official newspaper, and establish a public hearing and adoption of the final budget for the 2013-2014 school year on March 21, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center of the Essex Fells School.

Moved by: Mr. Hutchinson  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. D’Alessandro  
Nays: 0

**IX. Personnel (Public Items only)**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the Curriculum Coordinator position had to be removed from the 13-14 Budget; the possibility of 1 First Grade class; and that the district is fully staffed and no staff cuts are in the 13-14 Budget.

**X. Old Business/Board Discussion**

- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board she attended her 3<sup>rd</sup> day of training on the new Teacher Evaluation, administered by James Stronge. She felt the training was extremely beneficial and detailed future training as the evaluation system is put into place.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board of a resolution to be included for discussion at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting pertaining to parents requesting independent evaluations and Board policy.
- Mrs. D’Alessandro asked what will be the procedure for future scenarios.
- Dr. Nitti asked Mrs. Gadaleta to refresh the Board members on the current policy as to know what needs to be added/changed.
- Mr. Hutchinson asked what is the process for a parent to go to another Doctor other than the one suggested by the district.

**XI. New Business / Board Discussion**

- Discussion was held regarding the possibility of creating a Faculty room in the Intermediate building.
- Mrs. Gadaleta asked the Board if they would like to renew the district’s bulk mail permit.
- Mrs. Gadaleta informed the Board that the new Executive County Superintendent has been officially appointed.

**XII. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**XIII. Resolution to Enter Executive Session**

The Board of Education made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:15 P.M. to discuss and meet with non-tenured employees. The items discussed in executive session will be disclosed to the public when the need to maintain their confidentiality no longer exists. No action will be taken.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mrs. D'Alessandro  
Nays: 0

**XIV. Adjournment**

At 9:26 P.M. the Board of Education made a motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Dr. Nitti  
Ayes: 4

Seconded by: Mr. Hutchinson  
Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven J. Lella  
Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary